

Civil War Defenses of Washington NEWSLETTER



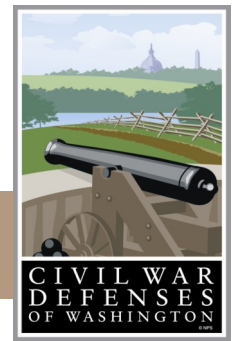
Fort Marcy	Fort Reno	Battleground	Fort Slocum	Fort Mahan	Fort Davis	Battery Carroll
Battery Kemble	Fort DeRussy	National	Fort Totten	Fort Chaplin	Fort Stanton	Fort Greble
Fort Bayard	Fort Stevens	Cemetery	Fort Bunker Hill	Fort Dupont	Fort Ricketts	Fort Foote

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Winter 2011

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Neighborhood Farm Initiative looks to educate

by: Bea Trickett, NFI

There are more than 550 community garden plots within the parks of Civil War Defenses of Washington. Some of these gardens began as Victory Gardens during World War II. Today, the Neighborhood Farm Initiative (NFI), a non-profit project of America the Beautiful Fund, helps make the Ft. Totten and Ft.

Dupont gardens successful by providing educational gardening programming for teens and adults. NFI aims to improve underutilized public green spaces by creating demonstration gardens for hands-on community wide gardening education, thereby increasing access to fresh vegetables for all members of our community, regardless of income.

In 2010 more than 280 NFI volunteers helped support the successful half acre demonstration garden near Fort Totten. Through



Summertime harvest, Michael DeAngelis

(Continued as **Initiative** on page 4)



Back to the Future: Community Gardens in DC

Written by: Wesley Gant, **Park Ranger**, Fort Dupont

The idea for community gardens dates back further than the history of the city of Washington. Today there are over 40 community gardens inside the District of Columbia helping build and strengthen our neighborhoods. The gardens offer many benefits beyond the substance they produce and also give a glimpse into the past.

Community gardens can be traced to medieval Europe when settlements were built centered around a corral known as the village green. During daytime the villagers would take their animals to pasture and at night return



A WWI editorial cartoon promoting the planting of "Victory Gardens".

to the village green where the animals were penned up for the safekeeping at night. Gradually from the 12th century till 1850 the governments of Europe passed enclosure acts which fenced off the lands outside of town where the animals had grazed. With no place to take the animals to eat during the day, it became harder to own animals

leaving the village green as an empty green space. The village green quickly found new use as "allotment gardens" with an association assigning plots to individuals and allowing them to raise produce.

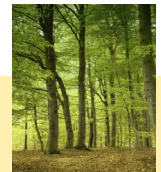
The practice of village greens and allotment gardens came to America with early Protestant immigrants. Today, village greens are still central to many settlements throughout the country, especially in the towns of

(Continued as **Gardens** on page 4)

Trail Ambassadors lead the way

by: Jermaine Robinson, **Park Ranger**, Fort Dupont

The trail ambassadors program is a new initiative on the Hiker-Biker Trail connecting Wards 6, 7, and 8. The overall goal of the program is to act as the first link between park and community, while giving more opportunities to high school students trying to earn community service hours. Community service hours help build student's academic resumes. The program also offers the community a group of talented young people with a solid education in natural history and outdoor resources. It will put *positive feet* on our trails and in the community. Positive feet, means that the ambassador will promote the parks natural resources (waterways, ecosystem, wildlife, etc), increase awareness of the park's recreational opportunities (biking and hiking), and educate visitors on DC's Civil War history. The Ambassadors will also play a key role in leading the community with trail clean-ups (removal of waste, invasive vines, trail maintenance, etc).



Featured Fort: Fort Totten

Fort Totten is named for Brig. Gen. Joseph Totten the chief of engineers for the Union Army. Totten was a leader in the design of seacoast fortification and a mentor of George Bernard, the designer of the earthwork defense of Washington. Fort Totten was a seven sided polygon with a perimeter of 270 yards and was heavily armed with artillery ranging from the 24-pound coehorn mortar to a 100-pound parrot rifle. It protected the northeastern approaches to the city. The fort was often visited by President Lincoln due to its proximity to the Soldier's Home, also known as the "Summer White House". In July of 1864, Fort Totten provided supporting fire during the Battle of Fort Stevens. During the war a number of structures were built around the fort including officer quarters, a kitchen, and a guardhouse. Today Fort Totten is most known for being a metro stop rather than its important role in protecting the nation's capital.

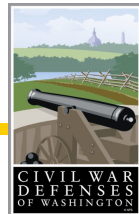
Directions: Fort Totten is located along Fort Totten Dr. NE, Washington DC.

Winter 2011 CWDW Newsletter

Editor: Wesley Gant

Contributors: Mark Maloy, Alexa Viets, Jermaine Robinson, Bea Trickett, Kevin F. Barry, Tommy Safranek

Civil War Defenses of Washington NEWSLETTER



January 2011

All NPS events are **Free**.
For more info call 202-426-7723

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5 11 AM Arlington House	6	7	8 2PM Ft. Stevens
9 1 PM Ft. Stevens	10	11	12	13	14	15 11 AM Ft. Dupont
16	17	18	19 11 AM Arlington House	20	21	22
23 1 PM Ft. Bunker Hill	24	25	26	27	28	29 11 AM Ft. Dupont 12 PM Benning Rd. Library
30	31					

February 2011



Ranger Talk
1 hour



Ranger led
Hike 1 hour



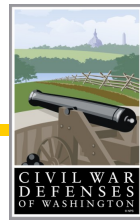
Bike Ride 2 hours
(bring your own bike)



Community
event

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 11 AM Arlington House	3	4	5
6 1 PM Ft. Stanton	7	8	9	10	11	12 11 AM Ft. Dupont
13	14	15	16 11 AM Arlington House	17	18	19 12 PM Benning Rd. Library
20 1 PM Ft. Marcy	21	22	23	24	25	26 9 AM Ft. Dupont 11 AM Ft. Chaplin
28	28					

Civil War Defenses of Washington NEWSLETTER



March 2011

All NPS events are **Free**.
For more info call 202-426-7723

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 11 AM Arlington House	3	4	5
6 1 PM Ft. DeRussy	7	8	9	10	11	12 11 AM Ft. Chaplin
13	14	15	16 11 AM Arlington House	17	18	19 12 PM Benning Rd. Library
20 1 PM Battery Kemble	21	22 7 PM Ft. Dupont	23	24	25	26 11AM Ft. Dupont
27 1 PM Theodore Roosevelt Island	28	29	30 11 AM Arlington House	31		



Civil War Defenses of Washington Winter Events

All events are **free** and open to the public



January



January 5 11AM-2PM Arlington House: Learn about the strategic importance of Arlington House during the Civil War. Parking available at Arlington National Cemetery Visitor Center (Arlington National Cemetery Arlington, VA 22211).



January 8 2PM Fort Stevens: Explore the events that occurred during the summer of 1864, which led to the battle that saved Washington. Walk among the earthworks of Fort Stevens and experience the lives of the men that defended the Capitol. Meet at Rock Creek Park Nature Center (5200 Glover Rd NW).



January 9 1PM Fort Stevens: *Lincoln in Action* - Explore how President Abraham Lincoln used executive power in a time of crisis to influence the direction of the Civil War. Parking on the street (13th and Quackenbos St NW, Washington, DC).



January 15 11AM Fort Dupont: *Who built the forts?* - Explore the lives of the people that constructed the forts around Washington. Tour the earthworks afterwards. Parking at the Activity Center (Fort Dupont Drive SE, Washington, DC)



January 19 11AM-2PM Arlington House: See January 5 information.



January 23 1PM Fort Bunker Hill: *The enemy within: Maryland Confederates* - Visit a fort that protected Washington from the Old Line State and learn about Marylanders with divided loyalties and the events that tested the strength of the Union. Parking on street (1300 block Otis St NE, Washington, DC).



January 29 11AM Fort Dupont: *Topography of Defense* - Join a ranger for a 5 mile mountain bike ride and discover how the forts atop the hills around DC took advantage of the landscape to defend the capital then, and offer amazing views now. Parking at the Activity Center (Fort Dupont Drive SE, Washington, DC).



January 29 12PM Benning Road Library: *Protecting Washington* - Join a ranger and learn about the Civil War history of the capital and then cross the street to Fort Mahan. Parking on site (3935 Benning Rd. NE, Washington DC).

February

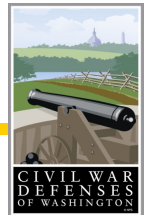


February 2 11AM-2PM Arlington House: See January 5 information.




February 6 1PM Fort Stanton: *Escape of an assassin* -Join a ranger at Fort Stanton to learn how John Wilkes Booth fled the capital after the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. Parking on site (1901 Fort Place SE, Washington DC).

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(Events continued from page 3)


 **February 12 11AM Fort Dupont: Ring of Fire** - Join a ranger at the activity center for a discussion about the building of the extensive military complex that surrounded the capital and hike to investigate the Fort Dupont earthworks. Parking at Activity Center (Fort Dupont Drive SE, Washington, DC).

 **February 16 11AM-2PM Arlington House:** See January 5 information.

 **February 19 PM Benning Road Library:** See January 29


 **February 20 1PM Fort Marcy: All roads lead to DC** - Visit a fort constructed on the western front and learn about the various bridges and construction projects that transformed Washington from a sleepy town to a bustling metropolis. Parking on site (North bound George Washington Memorial Parkway, Arlington, VA).


 **February 26 9AM Fort Dupont community garden orientation.** Parking at the Activity Center (Fort Dupont Drive SE, Washington, DC).

 **February 26 11AM Fort Dupont: Hidden Forest** - Join a ranger led bike ride along the Hiker-Biker Trail to explore the urban forest, and take in the great views. Parking at Activity Center (Fort Dupont Drive SE, Washington, DC).

March

 **March 2 11AM-2PM Arlington House:** See January 5 information.

 **March 6 1PM Fort DeRussy: Life of a soldier** – discover the city that welcomed thousands of soldiers and learn about the lifestyle of a soldier of the forts. Parking at Rock Creek Nature Center (5200 Glover Road NW, Washington, DC).


 **March 12 11AM Fort Chaplin: Planning for the future** - A ranger led hike along the Hiker/Biker Trail takes a look at the role farsighted urban planning took in preserving the Civil War forts. Parking on site (4648 Texas Ave. SE, Washington DC).

(Continued from **Gardens** from page 1)


New England. The allotment garden idea continued in obscurity until World War I, when the allotment garden was rebranded as a “victory garden” and became a crucial part of the home front’s patriotic support effort to relieve pressure on the domestic food supply. The victory gardens were not limited to village greens but found a place as citizens saw them as their chance to support the war effort. Victory gardens were planted in city parks, backyards, and even on top of buildings. It is estimated that over 20 million Americans planted “victory gardens”. After the war many of those gardens faded away, but some have continued to be operate even until today. In 2008 Michelle Obama re-established the victory garden at the White House as part of her campaign to educate Americans about healthy eating.





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 **March 16 11AM-2PM Arlington House:** See January 5 information.

 **March 19 12PM Benning Road Library:** See January 29

 **March 20 1PM Battery Kemble: DC under attack : Confederate Raiders** - Visit a Battery that protected the western edge of the District from Confederate Raiders. Parking on site (2802 Chain Bridge Rd. NW, Washington DC).

 **March 22 7PM Fort Dupont community garden orientation.** Parking at Activity Center (Fort Dupont Drive SE, Washington, DC).

 **March 26 11AM Fort Dupont: A capital view** - Join a ranger led mountain bike ride to visit a number of forts and take in the history and the views. Parking at Activity Center (Fort Dupont Drive SE, Washington, DC).

 **March 27 1PM Theodore Roosevelt Island: Civil War by air** - With the demands of the Civil War both armies raced to innovate. At Fort Corcoran soldiers tested the limits of flights and founded the Balloon Corp. Parking on site (North bound George Washington Memorial Parkway, Arlington, VA).

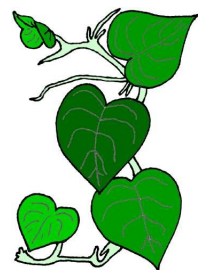
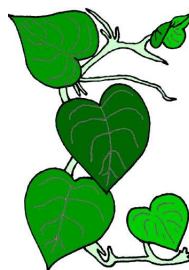
 **March 30 11AM-2PM Arlington House:** See January 5 information.

(Continued from **Initiative** from page 1)



volunteers working to prepare the soil for winter by cover-cropping. Liz Whitehurst

outreach, education, and partnerships, 17 adults and 20 local youth learned the trade and value of sustainable gardening at Ft. Totten and Ft. Dupont this summer. NFI also donated 215 pounds of fresh organically grown vegetables to Food & Friends (a non-profit serving thousands of meals to people living with life-challenging illnesses across the DC-area), and over 80 pounds of fresh veggies to DC Central Kitchen. Find out more about wintertime volunteer opportunities, upcoming fundraisers, or other ways to get involved at www.neighborhoodfarminitiative.org or by emailing the Neighborhood Farm Initiative at NeighborhoodFarm@gmail.com.



Teen participants harvesting bunches of herbs for cooking demonstrations, Liz Whitehurst



Have Ideas? Contact Us!

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